

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write today to express our concerns regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) recent changes to our nation's border security policies, which have put North Carolinians at risk. The recent surge of migrants can be directly attributed to the Biden Administration's recent decisions to halt the Migrant Protection Protocols program, suspend border wall system construction, weaken immigration enforcement, and implement "catch and release" at the border. These divisive policies rolled back President Trump's successful efforts to control our border. Simply put, these policies are reckless and are putting our constituents in danger.

According to media reports, DHS recently released hundreds of illegal immigrants infected with COVID-19 into the interior of the United States.¹ Further reporting shows that a number of these illegal immigrants were placed on charter buses heading from Texas to North Carolina. There has been no explanation to justify releasing COVID-positive migrants into our communities.

This Administration's border security policies are creating devastating consequences that will set us back in the fight against COVID-19. Caseloads in North Carolina have fallen steadily since the new year, and the positivity rate recently fell to 5.8% - the lowest level since October 2020. Our state is in a strong position to get our people back to work and end lockdown policies that harm families. Unfortunately, the Administration's decision to send COVID-positive illegal immigrants into North Carolina puts our state's recovery at risk and violates President Biden's pledge to beat the virus. Our constituents deserve to be put first, not last.

Given the danger our constituents face, we demand answers to the following questions to help protect our constituents:

1. Was DHS or any other federal government entity involved in funding, planning, or otherwise facilitating the purchase of charter bus tickets from the Southern Border to North Carolina for COVID-19 positive illegal immigrants?

¹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/after-border-patrol-release-asylum-seekers-test-positive-covid-brownsville-n1259282>

2. Has your office provided any officials in North Carolina with information regarding illegal immigrants who have tested positive for COVID-19 that are arriving in the state?
3. What actions are being taken by the Biden Administration to ensure illegal immigrants who have tested positive for COVID-19 are quarantined before they are released into American communities?
4. The current CDC guidance recommends COVID-19 positive individuals spend at least 14 days in quarantine. Has DHS met all quarantine regulations before releasing COVID-19 positive migrants into the interior of our nation?

It is clear to any fair-minded observer that these negligent actions have put our constituents at risk. We urge you to put politics aside and focus on the health and well-being of the American people as President Biden promised during his campaign. Time is of the essence and we look forward to a prompt response.

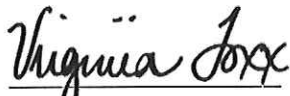
Sincerely,



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



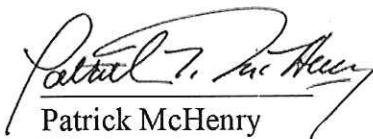
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



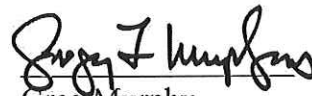
Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



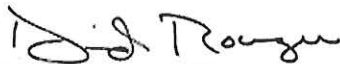
Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Greg Murphy
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress